
* "AUNT CAROLINE'S CARVING KNIFE" *
* *** *
* PROPERTY OF *
* JOHNIE SPEER *

AUNT CAROLINE'S CARVING KNIFE.

CAST

UNCLE GEORGE OLD DARKIE

COLONEL HOWARD CHARACTER

TRACY GREENNON HEAVY

AUNT CAROLINE NIGGER MAMMY

ANGIE HOWARD THE COLONEL'S DAUGHTER

SETTING

The interior of Colonel Howard's southern mansion.

PROPS

Big butcher knife

Saw horse

Tray and glass of mint julep

Money

SOUTH OF THE MASON DIXON LINE.

CAROLINE

(ENTERS AT RISE L. U. SINGING. SEES COLONEL WHO IS ASLEEP AND SHE STOPS AND THEN BEGINS HUMMING LOW.)

UNCLE GEORGE

(ENTERS L.) Ole 'oman.

CAROLINE

Shut yo' mouf you ole black ape does you want to wake up the cunnel?

UNCLE GEORGE

I wasn't makin' ~~no~~ noise, ole 'oman. I jes wants to know if you kin let me have dat ten cents I give you las' week? I wants to step down town.

CAROLINE

(HANDS ON HIPS) Fo't the Lawd's sake, aint you nevah gq ine to quit pesterin' me bout money? I done give you a nickel last Friday. Whar is it?

GEORGE

Honey---I---You keep s such a close watch on everytuing let me see what did I do wid dat nickel? (SCRATCHES HEAD) I put it in de constitution plate at the church la's Sunday.

CAROLINE

Nigahh, you'se lyin' to me.

GEORGE

Look out, now ole 'woman, you knows how nervous I is. I's liable to drap right down dead heah befoah yo' very eyes.

CAROLINE

An' dat aint all. I done seed Massa Cunnel give you two bits for black in his shoes. Now I wants to know har dat is. You ole slew foot houn' I guess you think yo's is Rockefeller or Henry Ford. Whar is dat money I asks you. (LOUDER) Whar is it?

GEORGE

Ole 'oman, you'se got me so nervous I jest caint think.

CAROLINEN

I bet I help you think. Get out of here. (CHASES HIM OFF L. U.) You get out of here, you ole black debil you! (YELLING AFTER HIM)

COLONEL

(WAKES UP WITH A START) What's the matter, Ca'oline?

CAROLINE

Nothin'. Nothin'. tall, Cunnel. I'se jest tryin' to keep dat ole black imp from wakin' yo' up is all.

COLONEL

Oh I see. Well, has Tracy Glennon and my daughter Angie gotten back yet from their ride in the park?

CAROLINE

No suh !' Ah sho does worry when she goes out wid dat Tracy Glennon Massa Cunnell! He aint no fit company for a gal like Angie.

COLONEL

Now what makes you think so, Caroline?

CAROLINE

Because he am all the time trying to get her to marry him, and he jest wants to marry her for her money. He aint got no money and he's white trash.

COLONEL

Now you mustn't say things like that unless you are sure. Tracy Glennon seems to put on a good front.

CAROLINE

Yessa it's all in front, but he aint got no behind! (LOOKS OUT WINDOW AS THE COLONEL LAUGHS) I declare to goodness here them two come a racin up the drive. Look at dat gal ride dat horse! She'll be thrown off en her head and sprain her ankle sure as I'm livin'.

COLONEL

(LOOKS OFF WINDOW) Well, who's in the lead---Tracy Glennon or my daughter

CAROLINE

Mr. Glennon is---hope his horse stumbles and breaks his head. I don't like dat man.

ANGIE

(ENTERS C. RUNS IN LAUGHING. TRACY IS RIGHT BEHIND HER) Oh I'm all out of wind. You beat me all right. But I beat you in the house.

TRACY

Yes, but I won the wager. You know you said that if I beat your horse to the front lawn, you'd see that I got a kiss, and I want it.

CAROLINE

Don' you let dat kigk man kiss yo' honey, less you got some listerine to gargle with.

COLONEL

Caroline! (TO TRACY) So, Tracy, you won the race with my daughter, and now she won't keep her promise, eh?

TRACY

I don't know yet. I'm going to keep insisting. Angie, I won fair and square and I really mean it when I say I want that kiss.

ANGIE

What kiss?

TRACY

Don't evade me. You know what kiss! You promised me that I would get a kiss.

ANGIE

Oh, that's right. I did promise that yewdubbed I would see that you got a kiss. But then I didn't promise that I would kiss you---

TRACY

Oh but--

ANGIE

I said I'd see that you got a kiss, so you may kiss Caroline!

Hell he will!

COLONEL

Caroline! Haven't I told you aboutnsweering? The very idea!

CAROLINE

Yessah, but dat cuss words just oozed out so easy like!

TRACY

You'll pardon me if I say it, Colonel, but I think you have a very rude servant.

COLONEL

Oh, Caroline, means all right.

ANGIE

Of course she does Tracy, if you want to keep on my good side, you'll have to be good to old Caroline too. Come, Caroline, I want you to help me dress for dinner.

CAROLINE

Yessum, Miss Angie! Ah done got yo' dresses all laid out!(THEY EXIT L.)

TRACY

Colonel Howard, I can't understand your daughter. She seems to have no affection for me whatso ever.

COLONEL

Well, I see nothing unusual about that.

TRACY

But she doesn't seem to have any fancy for any other feālows that I notice.

COLONEL

Well, Tracy, I may as well tell you now as never. Angie was in love with a young man who went away to the World War and has never returned.

TRACY

You mean he is dead?

COLONEL

We are not certain of that. He was not reported dead, but he was just found missing. Angie can never get over the feeling that somewhere in this world he lives, and that he will some day return to her.

TRACY

Oh, that's foolish! xColonel, I hope you have no objections to me paying my respects to your daughter?

COLONEL

Why of course not. Angie is the dictator of her own desires, and if she should ever choose you for a husband, I would say nothing, for as far I know your record is a clear one.

TRACY

There might be a number of advantages in a marriage between your daughter and me. You know that your bank is no wonderful condition and at the present time, and if I were to withdraw my money---

COLONEL

Now we shan't talk about that, Tracy. You wouldn't want to withdraw your account. Let's have a little drink and be congenial. First I want to get that lazy servant of mine to chop some wood. (CALLS) George! You old rascal come in here. (GEORGE ENTERS) See here why aint you out there chopping wood?

GEORGE

Now, Massa Cunnel, I just cain't chop no wood today, I'se so nervous I'se afradd dat ax will slipp off de handle and chop off my foot clear off of me.

COLONEL

(TO TRACY) You see, Tracy, George there has been on the verge of nervous prostration for the past twenty years, but so far he's managed to stave it off! (LAUGHS)

GEORGE

Aint it de truff?

CAROLINE

(ENTERS L. U.) See here, niggah, if you don't chop some stove wood, I'se gwine to wear you out wif a club. (EXITS L. U.)

GEORGE

Yes, ~~honey~~, I'se a comin'. Now you see, Massa Cunnel, dat's what makes me nervous! (EXITS L. COLONEL AND TRACY LAUGH AND EXIT C.)

ONE *****

ANGIE

(ENTERS FOLLOWED BY TRACY) Oh, Trac, there is no use of your trying to propose to me again. I tell you it is in vain.

TRACY

But, Angie, why do you spurn my love? Haven't I money?

ANGIE

I don't know--have you?

TRACY

You ought to know! If it weren't me your father's bank would go on the rocks.

ANGIE

Oh, don't be ridiculous. My father has been a banker all of his life. His bank could never fail.

TRACY

I would not be too sure of that. If I were to withdraw my account with your father's bank, he would be in a terrible state. In fact his assets would be ruined. You understand that without the proper assets he would have to close his bank.

ANGIE

Well, you wouldn't do anything to cause him trouble would you? Mr. Glennon?

TRACY

I will be frank with you, Angie, your father's fate lies in your hands.

ANGIE

What do you mean?

TRACY

Well, if you treat me nice, I'll treat your father right; if you don't then I will turn upon him and destroy him like a typhoon. (PUTS ARMS AROUND HER) Angie, I want you for my wife.

ANGIE

That I can never be. I do love you. I have a sweetheart who went away to war, and he is the only man that I can ever give my love to,

TRACY

But the war has been over for years; your lover is dead by now no doubt.

ANGIE

Oh don't say that! Please don't! I told my Arnold that I would wait for him, and I will--I'll wait forever.

TRACY

And you may starve while you're waiting. Come, Angie, forget all of this romantic nonsense, and settle down to cold facts! (TRIES TO KISS HER) (CAROLINE ENTERS)

ANGIE

Don't! Don't! Leave me alone.

CAROLINE

(GRABS HIM) Lookee here! You' leave dat gal alone.

TRACY

And who'll make me?

CAROLINE

I will. (CHASES HIM OFF WITH BIG BUTCHER KNIFE) Dat gonna have to be cut up into shreds. Honey, what he been sayin' to you to make you cry.

ANGIE

Oh, Aunt Caroline, I believe that man is trying to ruin my father. He says that my father's assets are shot. You know Mr. Glennon has a large account with father's bank and right now if he were to withdraw I guess dad's capital surplus and assets would be gone! Oh I'm going up to my room and have a good cry. (EXITS R.)

GEORGE

(ENTERS SEES HER EXIT) What's the matter with Missy Angie, honey?

CAROLINE

She's cryin'. Dat ole Tracy Glennon done tryin' to make her marry him, and he's gonna ruin her fathers surplus, his capital, and his assets.

GEORGE

Good lawsy, he's jest gonna wreck poor Mass Cunnel aint he? What's all them there things you talkin' ab ut honey, what's dat surplus and capita and assets . What's dem things mean?

CAROLINE

Niggah, does you all mean to stand there with yo' bare face hangin' out and tell me dat you don't know what assets mean?

GEORGE

Ah sho don't!

CAROLINE

Well, ah see right now where ah's gonna have to elucidate in such a perpendicular manner dat even yo will understand. Now assets is--- assets is---

GEORGE

Yessum! What is they?

CAROLINE

Why they's assets! Man, I caint just tell you 'zactly what it is, but its something 'bout money. Now fo' instance---de cunnel done got a big office down town in his bank you know. Well, now under his office is a great big safety vault where dey's a whole lot of money stored. Maybe deys ten thousand dollars dats extra money, dats means his assets is over ten thousand dollars. Now you understand?

GEORGE

Yes, what is it?

CAROLINE

Niggah ahs gonna smash you if you don't get some sense in yo' haid. Now you tell me what I done told you.

GEORGE

Well, now the way I done got it figured out am dis---de cunnel he done got a office up above a place where he keeps ten thousand dollars. De ten thousand dollars am down below his office. Now when he comes in and sets down in his office why his assets over ten thousand dollars. Am dat it? (CAROLINE RUNS HIM OFF ADLIBBING QUICKLY)

***** NUMBER TWO *****

COLONEL

(ENTERS CALLS) Oh Ca'oline. Ca'oline! (SHE ENTERS L.) Ca'oline, ah wish you would fix me a ~~hondjk~~ mint julep. I've got some business to attend to ~~and~~ I think I better have a little snack.

CAROLINE

Yessa, ah fix it right up, Massa Colonel. (EXITS L.) (GEORGE ENTERS R.)

GEORGE

Massa Cunnel.

COLONEL

Yes?

GEORGE

I jes' now heard you tell de ole 'oman to fix you a toddy. Now if you happen to have jes' a little drap left, would you mind givin' it to me?

COLONEL

(LAUGHS) All right, George.

CAROLINE

(ENTERS L. U. WITH TRAY AND GLASS) Why don't you go on, niggah am chop up dat wood? (HANDS GLASS TO COLONEL) Yo is so slow dat ah cain't tell whether yo is dead half the time.

GEORGE

Now old woman you know my nervousness!

CAROLINE

Yo' mean yo' laziness. Massa Cunnel does yo' all know dat man am so daid lookin' dat de other day he was standing on de street corner and somebody come along and hitched their horse to him.

COLONEL

(LAUGHS) Is that a fact, George?

GEORGE

Yessa ah guess s̄. I was just standin' there, and they must a thought I was a hitchin' post. I didn't mind that so much but a houn' dog done come along right behind dem and made de same mistake!

CAROLINE

Aint dat awful? Get yo'self out and fetch dat wood.

GEORGE

Dat's all right, ole 'oman, I'se waitin' to fetch the glass back after Massa Cunnel is through wid it.

CAROLINE

No, you aint gwine to fetch me nuffin'. I'll tend to this glass myself an' you bettah go on and ~~hitch up~~ chop dat wood like I told y ou, niggah.

COLONEL

(SMILING) Ca'oline, will you bring me a hankerchief?

CAROLINE

(LOOKS AT GEORGE) Yessah, in a minute, jest as soon as you gets thru wid dat glass.

COLONEL

Oh never mind; I'll take care of the glass myself.

CAROLINE

Yes suh. (PUTS TRAY ON TABLE C. PASSES GEORGE AND MAKES A WILD PASS AT HIM) You ole green eyed ape you! (EXITS R. U.)

COLONEL

(GIVES GLASS TO GEORGE) Here you are, George.

GEORGE

Thank you, Massa Cunnel. (DRINKS) Um-ummm! (DRINKS) Dat sho is good fo' dis niggah's nervousness.

COLONEL

All right now let's see if your nervousness will let you chop a little wood toady.

GEORGE

Yes suh, ah can chop all dat wood in two minutes now. I feel like a regular saw mill now. (CAROLINE ENTERS R. U. HE GRABS HER AND DANCES AROUND. SHE THROWS HIM C.) Come on, ole 'oman, let's dance de two step. (DANCE TILL RUN OFF S. D. BY CAROLINE EXITS LAUGHING)

CAROLINE

Niggah, does you want me to bus' yo' skull wide open? I'll dance de tree step and de four step on yo' neck if you don't let me alone. (X'S DOWN TO COLONEL) Heah's yo' hankerchief, Cunnel!

TRACY
Never-the-less, I am the only man that can save him, and if I withdraw my money now he is absolutely ruined. The people will be thronging his bank doors, he will be a pauper. You must marry me at once.

ANGIE

I would rather die!

TRACY

Then you shall be looked upon as the daughter of a convict.

ANGIE

Daughter of a convict, what do you mean?

TRACY

Your father has overstepped the United States banking laws; he has used money that does not belong to him. Are you going to save your father.

ANGIE

Oh but the man I love--Arnold!

TRACY

Is he dearer to you than your own flesh and blood. Would you be happy knowing that you could have saved your father and would not?

ANGIE

No! No!

TRACY

I am the only one that can save your father's bank---unless you agree to my terms I will see him rot in jail!

ANGIE

Very well, then I shall become your wife, but in name only! (CAROLINE ENTERS) Caroline, I am going to become the wife of Tracy Glennon?

CAROLINE

Am dat so? ~~Whedland ed weddind gdg dkt add plkddk~~ What day am de wedding going to take place?

ANGIE

I don't know why do you ask?

CAROLINE

Because dat same day they is gonna be a funeral.

TRACY

Who's funeral?

CAROLINE

Your funeral! Ah's gonna carve you from ear to ear! (DRAWS KNIFE AND CHASES HIM OFF)

* ***** NUMBER THREE *****

CAROLINE

(ENTERS WITH KNIFE) Wait till I find dat man! I'se done gaine to do some carving.

GEORGE

(ENTERS) Honey, where yo' all goin' with that knife.

CAROLINE

Dis niggah am out to kill dat no good pole cat what's tryin' to ruin
de Colonel and marry his daughter, Angie! I'll fix him!

COLONEL

(ENTERS L.) Caroline, what are you doing?

CAROLINE

Nothin' massa cunnel, ah's jest gonna do a little whittling. (TRACY
ENTERS C.) Dere he is. Let me at him!

COLONEL

Stop! Caroline! Leave him alone.

CAROLINE

Oh, please massa Cunnel, jest let me take one little nick at him.

COLONEL

No, Carolina. No!

CAROLINE

I won't make no mess, Cunnel. He won't bleed much. Yeller dogs like
him aint got no blood any way; it's jest all water. (MAKES PASS AT
TRACY WITH KNIFE)

COLONEL

(STERNLY) Ca'oline, I said you'll do no carving on that man.

CAROLINE

All right, but I'se got to do some cuttin' to appease my nature. (GRABS
GEORGE) Come on you ole grinnified ape, I'll take a couple of hunks out
of you.

GEORGE

Now leave me alone ole 'woman! (THEY EXIT L. TOGETHER)

TRACY

Thanks, Colonel, for keeping that black rascal off of me!

COLONEL

Don't think that I did it for any love or respect of you, Tracy Glennon.
I guess you think that you've got me where you want me, is that it?

TRACY

If I were you I would be careful what you say to me. As far as I'm
concerned I wOULD as soon see you go to jail as not but, then your
charming daughter has promised to become my wife---

COLONEL

And she will break that promise as quickly as she made it.

TRACY

If your daughter does not marry me within the next hour I will ruin you.

COLONEL

And within the next few ~~hours~~ minutes authorites from police head-
quarters will be here to take you into custody, you swindler.

TRACY

What do you mean?

COLONEL

I mean that you are wanted all over the country for crooked investment deals. All of the time that I've been dealing with you, detectives have been watching your operations. The securities and money which I gave you were counterfeit, and my bank is just as strong as it ever was.

TRACY

You mean you are going to let them take me to jail. Thanks for warning me I'll be gone before they get here.

COLONEL

~~Edkyha~~ It's twenty five miles to town; if you can beat the authorities on foot, you might.

TRACY

Why you old fool! I'll take your car. You won't stop me.

COLONEL

I thought of that, so I took the precaution to have the gasoline removed from the tank. (LAUGHS) I think I shall step out on the porch and watch for the police, my good Mr. Tracy Glennon. Excuse me, suh. (EXITS C.)

TRACY

The old fool has trapped me! I'll defeat him tho' (GEORGE ENTERS) Come here (GODES TO HIM VERY CONFIDENTIALLY) Do you want to make one hundred dollars in one minute!

GEORGE

Who I got to kill?

TRACY

No one just sneak one of the Colonel's race horses around to the back door and let me ride it, and I'll give you one hundred dollars. Hurry!

GEORGE

Yo' all have to give me the money first.

TRACY

I'll give you the money when you give me the horse.

GEORGE

Yo' all have to give me the money first!

TRACY

All right! All right! But hurry! I must get away from here. (HANDS HIM THE MONEY)

GEORGE

(STARTS) All right. What kind of a horse does you want?

TRACY

A fast horse! Hurry! I've got to get out of here I tell you.

GEORGE

What color horse does you want.

TRACY

You fool, any color! Just so it's a horse!

GEORGE

Yessah. Just any kind of horse, is dat i t?

TRACY

Any kind! Just so it's a horse. For god's sake hurry! (GEORGE EXITS)
 I'll show them they haven't got me. Now if I can get his daughter, I'll
 take the proud little fool away with me. Here she comes now. (ANGIE
 ENTERS) Ah, my dear, how is my little bride to be.

ANGIE

Aren't you a little mistaken now, Mr. Tracy? Father has told me every-
 thing and you are going away from here.

TRACY

You bet your life I'm going away and you're going with me! (GRABS HER.
 SHE SCREAMS HE RUSHES TO D. L.)

COLONEL

(ENTERS C.) What are you doing, suh?

TRACY

(PUTS HANDS IN POCKET FOR GUN) Stand back or I'll kill you. I'm going
 to take your daughter and go! (GEORGE ENTERS) Well, did you get the
 horse for me?

GEORGE

Yessah! You said any kind of a horse would do, didn't you?

TRACY

(IMPATIENTLY) Yes! Yes! But where is it?

GEORGE

(DRAGS OUT A SAW HORSE) Right here it is---

TRACY

What's that?

GEORGE

A saw horse!

TRACY

You fool! Let me get out of here! (RUSHES XTO C. DOOR)

CAROLINE

(ENTERS C. WITH KNIFE) Stand where yo' is, man! Massa Cunnel, de law
 em on de outside!

COLONEL

Very well! You may take charge of him, and turn him over to the la w.

CAROLINE

Hot dog! So you would try to rob de Colonel's capitol and his assets,
 and his surplusses in his bank. Now I done got yo' where I wants yo'.

GEORGE

Kick him in de assets, honey, kick him in de assets! (CAROLINE KICKS
 HIM OFF C. BRANDISHING A KNIFE AND WAVING IT)

ANGIE

Oh, daddy, I'm so happy th at everything is all right now. There is
 only one thing to complete my happiness.--

COLONEL

(TAKES OUT LETTER) And here it is. Your sweetheart is coming home.

TRACY

Any kind! Just so it's a horse. For god's sake hurry! (GEORGE EXITS)
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